



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARRENSBURG WOMAN CONVICTED OF PROSTITUTION-RELATED CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Warrensburg, Mo., woman who had hoped to earn \$1 million from a man she met on the Internet was convicted by a federal jury today on charges related to prostitution.

Cherri Turnbow, 30, of Warrensburg, Mo., was found guilty of enticement for prostitution and transportation of a minor for prostitution at the conclusion of a trial that began April 26, 2004. Jurors deliberated about 40 minutes before returning a guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning.

Turnbow enticed a 16-year-old female to travel with her from Missouri to New York City between April 1 and April 5, 2002, Grave said, because a man she communicated with over the Internet had offered \$1 million for a sexual encounter. **Turnbow's** boyfriend, **William R. Birchfield**, 40, of Atlanta, Ga., bought plane tickets for the three of them to travel to New York, where he also paid for a rental car and two rooms at Hollywood Motel in Long Island.

Turnbow and the minor met the unnamed john in one of the rooms at the Hollywood Motel while **Birchfield** waited in the other room. The encounter ended when the john touched the minor, who had disrobed and was only supposed to watch. **Turnbow** and the john agreed to meet again and resume the encounter the following day, Graves said, but the john never returned. **Turnbow** and **Birchfield** tried to locate him after he failed to appear the next day as promised, but were unable to find him.

“Needless to say,” Graves said, “they returned to Missouri without the million dollars. Instead, all they got from this encounter was a federal prison sentence.”

On April 21, 2004, **Birchfield** waived his right to indictment and pleaded guilty to a

federal information that charges him with transporting **Turnbow** across state lines with the intent that she engage in prostitution. **Birchfield**, who testified during **Turnbow's** trial, admitted that the offense also involved a minor.

Under federal statutes, **Turnbow** could be subject to a sentence of up to 25 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$500,000. **Birchfield** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Warrensburg, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow